S11 Papers

-SHUT DOWN THE-
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
sept 11-13 - melbourne
crown casino
www.
S11
.org

YOUR @ S11 RIGHTS

ARE YOU BEING ARRESTED?

The police probably have the right to physically move you out of the way of vehicles etc. without arresting you and without charging you

If the police arrest you, they must tell you that you are under arrest and what the charge is.

Ask if you are being arrested. Ask what the charge is. Remember what they say.

NAME AND ADDRESS

The police have the right to ask for your name and address (whether you are under arrest or not). If you refuse to give your name and address, it is an offence and the police may refuse to release you on bail.

The police officer must tell you his/her name, rank and where they're stationed if you ask.

Ask them and remember what they say.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The police have no right to demand that you submit to being photographed. But just like anyone else they are entitled to try to take a photograph.

If you do not want them to take your photograph, you could cover your face with your hands, turn away, bend down, or move your head.

ANSWERING POLICE QUESTIONS

You have the right to refuse to answer police questions in all circumstances (except your name and address).

Tell them nothing (except your name and address). Say in answer to all questions – "I have done nothing wrong and I have nothing to say". Or "no comment".

There are no off the record conversations with police.

LEGAL ADVICE

You have the right to communicate with your lawyer before police question you.

Names and numbers of lawyers who will be on 24 hour call will be provided to you closer to the time of S11 demonstrations and on the day.

Ask the police to ring your lawyer and put them on the phone so you can speak to them.

CONTACTING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Before police question you, you have the right to communicate with a relative or friend to tell them where you are.

Tell the police the name and phone number of a relative or friend you want to contact.

Ask the police to ring your relative or friend and put you on the phone so you can speak to them.

FINGERPRINTS

The police have the right to demand that you give them your fingerprints. They have the right to use force if you refuse.

SEARCHES

Police do not have an automatic right to search you. However, they will usually do a "pat down search". Police can do a "strip search" if they have reasonable grounds. It should not be in public place and should be by an officer of the same sex as you. They can not touch you improperly or conduct an external or internal physical examination without a court order or your consent. Do not consent to this. See below.

FORENSIC SAMPLES

For police to obtain a forensic sample (blood sample, hair or pubic hair, genital or mouth swabs etc.) from you they require you consent or a court order. You should refuse all requests for forensic samples and ask to speak to your lawyer.

GETTING OUT OF CUSTODY

The police have two choices

1) They can release you without charging you. You may get a summons later.

Or

2) They can charge you and release you on bail

Ask to leave as soon as you have been processed at the police station. Keep asking until they let you go or until they ask you to sign a bail undertaking.

BAIL

Bail is an undertaking (a promise) by you that you will turn up at court on the day your charge is listed. The undertaking is a form which you have to sign before they'll let you go. The form has standard conditions printed on it, such as that you will go to court etc.

The police can add special conditions to the undertaking – for example, a promise by you that you will not return to the demonstration or picket line. You do not have to agree to the special conditions.

If the bail undertaking does <u>not</u> include special conditions – sign it and leave.

If the bail undertaking includes special conditions.

a) Tell the police you want to speak to your lawyer. Ask them to ring him/her and put you on the phone to speak to them.
b) If you don't want to agree to the special conditions, don't sign the bail form. You may be kept in the police cells for some time. After a while or in the morning, you will be taken to the Magistrates Court. Your lawyer can ask the Magistrate to drop the special conditions. There is a good chance the Magistrate will agree.
c) Or you can sign the form with the special conditions and the police will let you go. If you breach the conditions, it may be grounds for the police to re-arrest you.

For further information call Damien Lawson 0418 140 387

Legal Information for Protesters

Directions from Police

If you are in a public place, police have powers to give you a direction to move from where you are, in order to prevent obstruction of people or traffic, or harassment or intimidation.

When they give you a direction to move the police must also identify themselves if they are not in uniform, give their name and station and warn you that it is an offence not to comply.

It is an offence to disobey a reasonable direction.

Police **cannot** use this law to move you along if you are participating in an industrial dispute, an "apparently genuine" demonstration or protest, a procession or an organised assembly.

It is also an offence to obstuct the free passage of people or traffic in a public place.

The police may also ask you to move on if you are trespassing on inclosed land. Inclosed lands are public or private lands surrounded by a fence, wall or other erection.

If you are on inclosed land it is an offence to enter without the consent of the owner or occupier and it is also an offence to remain there after you have been asked to leave.

Identification

The police have a right to ask you to identify yourself. Police have the power to demand that a person supply their name and address if the police officer thinks that the person may be able to assist them with information of an indictable (serious) offence. In these circumstances, it is an offence to refuse to identify yourself or to supply false information. Police can also ask for proof of your name and address.

You must identify yourself in a number of other circumstances including when you are driving a car or are suspected of involvement in a traffic offence.

In other circumstances you do not have to give your name and address, however there may not be much to gain by refusing to identify yourself. If you are actually arrested then police may hold you until they get some form of identification.

Talking to the Police

Whatever you decide about identification you should remember that you have a right to silence. If you are arrested at demonstration you should not say, write or sign anything for police about any offence. **You are not obliged to make any statement to police either before or after arrest.**

Searches

Once you have been arrested the police may search you if they have a good reason to believe the search will reveal evidence of the crime for which you were arrested or that you are carrying a weapon.

Police can also search you or your car or possessions if they reasonably suspect you of carrying something stolen or intended to be used in a serious crime or that you have a prohibited drug.

The police have powers to request you to submit to a search if you are in a public place or a school and the officer suspects on reasonable grounds that you have a dangerous implement or knife. The police officer must identify themselves and tell you why they want to search you. In these circumstances it is an offence not to submit to the search.

Produced by Redfern Legal Centre with assistance UTS Community Law and Research Centre – September 1999

This information is not intended to take the place of legal advice. Please seek legal advice and information from the services listed at the end of this sheet.

Offensive Language
There are offences relating to offensive conduct and offensive language. Think about what you are saying and avoid swearing at the police.

Capsicum Spray
Police may now use a canister of capsicum spray. Their own guidelines state that they can use it for controlling people in the case of violent resistance. If you think that you have been sprayed unlawfully, seek legal advice about making a complaint.

Arrest
If you have not been arrested then you are under **no obligation** to go with the police (to the police station or elsewhere) unless you agree.

Police can arrest you if they have reasonable grounds to think that you have committed an offence.

Police can arrest you either by taking hold of you or by telling you that you are under arrest. If you are in doubt, ask.

Police can use 'reasonable force' to arrest you. If you think they went past reasonable force gather witnesses and seek legal advice.

Be aware that even if you think the arrest might be unlawful it is an offence to resist arrest. This is a separate offence to the one for which you were first being arrested. If you think your arrest was unlawful, seek legal advice.

Possible Charges
There are a range of offences that are commonly used against demonstrators, these include Trespass, Offensive Behaviour, Resist or Hinder Police. Demonstrators can also be charged if there is damage to property caused by demonstrators. Once you have been released, get legal advice about your charges before you plead guilty or not guilty.

What happens after I have been arrested?
If you have been arrested then:

1. You may be released without being charged with an offence, either with or without a caution. Police have the discretion not to charge.

2. You may be held for a period before you are charged. Once you have been arrested the police can hold you for up to 'four hours' before charging. This time can in fact be extended by time out periods such as talking to your lawyer or making telephone calls. This can be extended to 12 hours by approval of a magistrate. Police have additional responsibilities towards some people such as Aboriginal people, people who don't speak English, people with an intellectual disability and young people (see below).

3. You may be charged and then bailed by police or held in custody to be taken before a magistrate for a bail hearing. Bail is an agreement to appear in court to face a charge at a later date. In small matters police can grant bail and generally should and there is no need for a bail hearing. Sometimes you may be given bail conditions such as to report to the Police or not to return to the are of the demonstration.

Complaints against Police
If you are unhappy with the way police have acted then consider making a complaint. Note down the names of the police, which station they are from as well, as the names of any witnesses, take photographs of any injuries and see a doctor if you are injured. You can make a complaint to the Police Ombudsman. For information on making a complaint seek legal advice.

Young People
If you are under 18 years old, police may decide to warn you, caution you or have you go to a conference instead of charging you. For advice on this call the Legal Aid Hotline for Young People on 1800 10 18 10.

Where to get help

Redfern Legal Centre 9698 7277

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The S11 Medical Team's
General Advice for Protesters

Recommended Supplies for Protesters
First-Aid & Capsicum spray prevention

The goal of the S11 Medical Team is to assist with the efforts to shut down the World Bank/IMF which is robbing our sisters and brothers worldwide of their ability to provide and receive health care, education, a living wage and other life essentials. The Medical Team will help you stay as active, healthy and engaged in the struggle as possible. We will provide free treatment to the best of our ability to anyone who requests it. We will offer 'straight' (allopathic) and 'complementary' (herbal, homeopathic, etc.) care.

The primary health care will take place in the protest zone by trained Street Medics, and you the protesters. The medics will facilitate assistance to anyone who desires it. The medics will be assigned to areas of action, affinity groups, and/or hot zones.

More intensive treatment will be provided in the vicinity of the protests.

Outside the protest zone, skilled health practitioners who can provide further assistance will care for people who need more intensive treatment than what is available in the field, or refer people to other health care -- i.e. hospital, adjunct therapy, etc..

You Need to Know:

If you are well prepared mentally and have essential supplies and knowledge, you will probably not need our medical assistance. Fear & confusion are the State's major weapon. Confidence, determination, preparation and awareness of your strength is your best weapon.

If you are going to be associated with the civil disobedience /direct-action at the World Economic Forum, the S11 Medical Team wants you and your affinity groups to learn simple preparations, and bring along essential supplies. This will help you avoid the worst effects of the POSSIBLE use of police violence and capsicum. They may use different tactics and weapons. Our advice is designed to help you remain in action for global justice, so be sure to read it and pass it around.

We will supply and train as many medics as possible. But you, the regular protesters are the primary health care providers.

You need to know about essential and optional supplies, clothes and gear to bring to the protest, and basic knowledge, prevention and treatment of effects from capsicum spray, and common injuries.

Each affinity group is asked to designate someone as their medical monitor. This person will be responsible for: making sure that the group has basic prevention/treatment supplies,

1. knowing basic prevention & first aid,
2. knowing how to access the S11 medical system,
3. making sure their comrades are treated and followed-up
4. documenting signs, symptoms and evaluation of treatment

Your group can benefit by selecting a person to attend an S11Medical Team *1st Aid* training prior to the action..

This First Aid information will describe simple and effective techniques to treat Capsicum spray and some other possibilities.

Those methods used by the police against us are not so much weapons of pain, as they are tools of distraction. The fear of Capsicum spray and tear gas is a diversion intended to control us, to cloud our vision and obscure the weakness of the corporate State - devoid of joy or love, knowing only the language of threats and fear.

Fear thrives on uncertainty and lack of knowledge. There is a lot of information here. We urge that each Affinity Group or group of buddies to appoint a Medical Monitor who learns - or can effectively refer to this, and the other health documents on Supplies and Advice that we have issued. We want you to stay healthy and happy.

"What history really shows is that today's empire is tomorrow's ashes, that nothing lasts forever, and that to not resist is to acquiesce in your own oppression. The greatest form of sanity that anyone can exercise is to resist that force that is trying to repress, oppress, and fight down the human spirit."-Mumia Abu Jamal

Remember, they're more scared of us than we are of them. They understandclearly we have the power to change this rotten system, and we have already shown that we can face down our fears.

Use Your Head

- **PLAN AHEAD:** For essential needs, care and supplies. Know what to expect. Know how to get assistance. Plan for how to re-contact your buddies if separated.
- **ATTITUDE:** You are powerful. You can easily withstand most of what the police throw at you, and you are an activist for justice. Remember, pain is only temporary, and we are extremely strong.
- **THE #1 WEAPON OF THE POLICE IS FEAR.** Once you control that, Capsicum spray, and other police tactics are easily manageable.
- **COMMON SENSE:** Keep your wits, assess what is going down and what needs to be done.
- **BE CALM and FOCUSED** when things get most intense. React to danger or warning signs sooner - not later. Watch for signs of physical and mental problems in yourself and others. Cool down others who exhibit panic behavior.
- **BEWARE OF RUMORS:** They are usually false, and foster fear. Deal with the known truth.
- **DOCUMENT** police actions, brutality and injuries.
- **ANGER** Intense anger is quite common with Capsicum spray, and can be useful if you are prepared and able to focus it. Maybe you can use your anger to motivate you to recover faster and get back in the action again. Maybe it will provide you with energy to get out to a safe space.

Information for Those With Health Conditions

- If you have any health condition that might pose serious health problems if your medication is interrupted (such as: retroviruses, psychiatric disorders, diabetes, hypertension), you should be aware that you may not have access to proper medication while you are in jail. A letter from a doctor may help. Three copies of the letter are needed, one for the legal team, one for the medical team (these will be kept completely confidential) and one for you.
- It should include the following information: your name, diagnosis, that you must have access at all times to your medication, a list of all medication, that you must be allowed to keep medication on your person so that they can be properly administered, and that no substitutions are acceptable.
- Since your name must be on the document, you may want to hide it on your body as a sort of insurance policy--perhaps you won't need it and then could eat it and utilize solidarity tactics. We believe that revealing your name and cooperating with the jailers to ensure your health is more beneficial to all than having to deal with a serious medical problem. Better to cite out than pass out.
- Please make sure that your affinity group and the legal team is aware of your needs so they can help care and advocate for you

The ESSENTIALS:

- **CLOTHES**
  - NO: earrings, piercings, necklaces, ties etc.
  - Dress for the weather: Average temperature, highs of 25+, lows of 10-, Sudden squally rain possible. Best to cover as much skin as possible
  - Expendable water repellent or synthetics the won't absorb chemicals (unlike water absorbing cotton) washed with neutral soap
  - Clinch/seal at wrists ankles and neck
  - Windcheater, light rain gear (also good for changing colour if you need to disappear.
  - Non absorbent hair cover: plastic bag, swim or shower cap
  - Helmet, cricket box, sports bra
  - Comfortable runners, boots.
  - Replacement pants/shirt sealed in bag, to replace chemically contaminated clothing
- **WATER:** LOTS to drink and rinse off chemicals. Spray mister head or squirt head on bottle to help conserve water & minimize contamination.
- **RESCUE REMEDY** from Health Food store - 4 drops per litre of water.
- **BANDANNAS SOAKED IN VINEGAR** * A gas mask semi-substitute. Keep them in a heavy duty ziplock bag
- **ENERGY SNACKS** in an easy swallowing liquid or semi-liquid form to keep you going.
- **SEALED GOGGLES** like swimmers (available in prescription).Protection from Capsicum spray.
- **GLOVES** disposable latex, vinyl, dishwashing. Extra bags.
- **CLOTH**, 4x4 GAUZE, etc. to clean off chemicals.
- **Castor Oil**, , Regular Dishwashing Detergent, Alcohol Swabs, Rubbing Alcohol (i.e. Isopropyl 70% Alcohol) for Capsicum spray decontamination. However, these are dangerous if used incorrectly. See "*Prevention & First Aid for Protesters* " (article available soon).
- **DAY PACK/SATCHEL** either that or you got some mighty big pockets
- **CHANTS & ATTITUDE!**

DO NOT WEAR CONTACT LENSES!!!
Trapped chemicals may cause eye damage.

DO NOT BRING/USE ON SKIN:
Vaseline, detergent soap, skin moisturizers, make up, sunblock, UV cream, because the chemicals bind with them - anything acidic will cause stronger reaction. Do not wear Vaseline, or castor oil for protection!!!

OPTIONAL Supplies / Clothing info:

- **GAS MASK** Preferably with shatter resistant lens & replaceable non-asbestos filters. M17A1 clones are good. Beware of police stealing them.
- **CHEMICAL/GAS RESPIRATOR** w/ filters for hazardous gases or paint stripper. Hardware or safety supply stores $40 -70 They cover mouth and nose only. Use swim goggles as well.
- Disposable camera
- Paper, pens, for notes, documentation
- Money for food, transportation & telephone
- Emergancy Phone numbers: Legal Aid, friends and relatives
- Mobile phone, 2 way radio, Walkthing set to S11 FM (tba)
- Sleeping mat
- Sleeping bag
- Tarp, sheet of plastic, Igloo tent
- Bike, rollerblades, skate board
- Flexible knee pads for kneeling on pavement for protracted periods of time.

- Carrying essential medications in their original prescription bottles with your name and the drug, dosage, etc. may help you get access to them in jail.

What you should know about Capsicum Spray

Who Should Avoid the Risk of Capsicum Spray:

- Those with asthma, respiratory problems or infections, pregnant women, women attempting to get pregnant, anyone ill or with a poor immune system, seizure disorders, eye infections, contact lens wearers, and children.

Capsicum Spray Concerns

- Since Capsicum spray is often sprayed at a close distance, the police may try to:
- Physically remove your goggles/ breathing protection.
- Spray between your face and your goggles/mask (which if your hands are locked down, makes them a trap for the chemical).

- Reaction to chemical exposure will be greater with the presence of some skin conditions such as acne or severe eczema.

- Contact Lens trap the irritating gases and chemical compounds underneath them and may increase the amount of damage and irritation. ***GET PRESCRIPTION GLASSES NOW AND WARN OTHERS NOT TO WEAR CONTACT LENSES.***

- It can be hazardous. People have died from respiratory failure (no protesters that we are aware of)..

- Asthmatics should bring their Ventilin pump

What to do when you get gassed or Capsicum sprayed without a mask

The first and most important thing to remember is to relax! If you are well prepared mentally and have essential supplies and knowledge, you will probably not need our medical assistance. Fear & confusion are the State's major weapon. Confidence, determination, preparation and awareness of your strength is your best weapon.

FIRST, DO NO HARM.

Make sure you apply treatments within your ability and understanding level. Recognize your limits. Ask for or refer to someone more experienced when needed. Experienced health workers know that asking for help is often absolutely essential.

- Wipes may be clean cloth, gauze, 4x4s etc. .
- Water may have 4 drops per litre of homeopathic Rescue Remedy added.
- Normal Saline (0.9% sodium solution) may be substituted for water used for flushing eyes or cleaning wounds.

GENERAL TREATMENT FOR CAPSICUM SPRAY (OC) BEFORE

- Practice first aid treatments before the action on each other so:
- You get experienced before you need to do treatments during an intense situation.
- You know what the treatment feels like.
- All water for cleaning, rinsing and drinking can contain homeopathic Rescue Remedy,2-4 drops per litre.

DURING

- Stay calm & focused.
- When your body heats up (from running or panicking, for example), the irritation may increase. Part of the reason is that your pours will open allowing more absorption of the chemicals.
- Make your way to a safe space with fresh air where unexposed folks can help you, or at least ensure your safety while you treat yourself.
- Face into the wind, open eyes, hold arms out and walk around to let fresh air decontaminate you. Take slow deep breaths of clean air.
- ·Don't touch your eyes or your face, as you may re-contaminate yourself.
- Blow your nose, spit out chemicals.
- · If there is wet Capsicum spray on skin, pad/sponge it up with cloth without spreading it around. If you move the oily chemical around the skin, you increase the area of painful skin.
- Before you assist or treat anyone, ask them for permission first! Then explain to them what you are going to do before you do it.
- Wear clean gloves (mutual protection from contamination) and eye protection, or you will end up unable to help and in need of treatment yourself - the blowback and splashing from administering some of the treatments can be wicked!
- · Best if cleaning solutions and water spill directly to ground so as to not contaminate clean skin, clothes or hair.
- Store contaminated wipes in a sealed bag.

AFTERWARDS

- Decontaminate with a cold shower (keeps pores closed preventing chemicalsfrom entering skin).
- Exchange contaminated clothing for fresh.
- Be aware that entering into a room with contaminated cloths, hair & skin reeking of chemicals will contaminate the room.
- A contaminated room with carpets or textiles on furniture may reek for weeks.
- If possible, please change out of contaminated garments before entering enclosed spaces such as convergence and treatment areas.
- Place contaminated clothes in bag. Squeeze out air. Seal it so the gases will diffuse out more slowly. If you want the clothes back, mark bag with a name.

PREVENTION: Wash before with pH neutral soap. Cover up with water repellent clothes & gear. Don't wear contact lenses, make-up, moisturizers or vegetable/mineral oil-based cream. Don't use Vaseline or mineral oil as skin barrier. Use gas mask, respirators, sealed (swim) goggles, and/or vinegar or lemon juice-soaked bandanna over mouth/nose.

GENERAL TREATMENT: Stay calm & focused. You are strong. The discomfort is only temporary & will not damage you. Don't touch face or rub eyes. Get to fresh air, eyes open, arms out (if tear gas), breath slow & deep. Blow nose, spit out chemicals. Consider water to flush eyes & gargle. Water or Witch Hazel soaked gauze or cotton balls on closed eyes are soothing. After treatment, wash off with cold water& replace contaminated clothes. WIPES may be clean cloth, gauze, 4x4s etc. . WATER may have 4 drops per litre of Rescue Remedy added. NORMAL SALINE (0.9% sodium solution) may be substituted for rinsing, cleaning water.

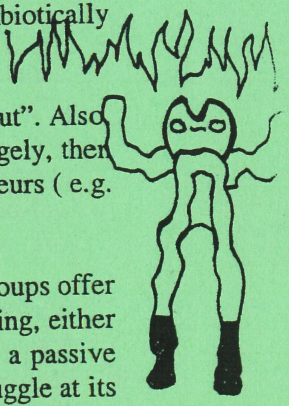
Affinity Groups

An affinity group is a group of people who have an affinity for each other, know each others strengths and weaknesses, support each other, and do (or intend to do) political/campaign work together. Most of us will have had some childhood/formative experience of being part of a group whether informally, as in a group of kids that are the same age and live in the same street, suburb or town, or formally, as in being involved in a sports team. However, affinity groups differ from these for numerous reasons, as explained below, (hierarchy, trust, responsibility to each other etc).

The concept of 'affinity groups has a long history. They developed as an organising structure during the Spanish Civil war and have been used with amazing success over the last thirty years of feminist, anti-nuclear, environmental and social justice movements around the world. They were first used as a structure for a large scale nonviolent blockade during the 30,000 strong occupation of the Ruhr nuclear power station in Germany in 1969, and then in the United States occupations / blockades of the Seabrook nuclear power station in '71 when 10,000 were arrested and again many times in the highly successful US anti-nuclear movement during the '70's and '80's. Their use in sustaining activists through high levels of police repression has been borne out time and again. More recently, they have been used constructively in the mass protest actions in Seattle and Washington.

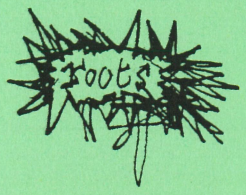
We don't have to use the word 'affinity group' - blockade teams, action groups, cells, action collectives etc. have all been used to describe the same concept. It would be best to find the most relevant name depending on when and where the structure is used. Also, each affinity group can choose their own name. For example, at the AIDEX protest, there was a 'Perseverance Affinity Group' named after the Fitzroy pub where it's members had their first meeting. Other names range across a whole gamut of political sensibilities (or the lack thereof); from the "Screaming Trees", the "Alcoholics against the Bomb", to the "Buckrabendinni Action Tribe"

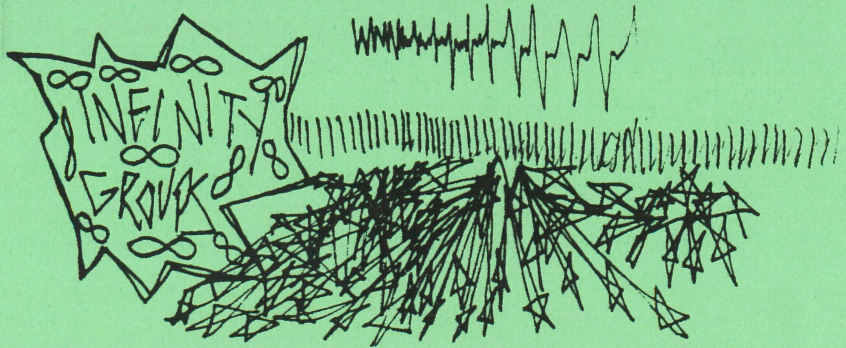
When it comes to demonstrating, or being politically active, there are numerous advantages to being part of an affinity group. It eliminates the feeling of isolation that comes from being one person in a crowd, and removes our reliance on a small group of self appointed marshals. It provides a way to organize ourselves so that everyone works and makes decisions directly with people that they know, thus turning a rabble of 1,000 into 100 organised groups of 10. These groups can then interact co-operatively as a cluster of groups, with some working symbiotically with others, and others tag-teaming.



It provides emotional support for every person "Together we stand, divided we freak out". Also it makes everyone accountable to someone else – if they get freaked out and act strangely, then there is some one there to help them out. Finally, it makes it harder for agent provocateurs (e.g. under cover cops, or corporately sponsored trouble-makers) to disrupt an action.

As well as playing an important role as part of a larger street demonstration, affinity groups offer a workable size group from which creative and inspiring, autonomous actions can spring, either spontaneously or pre-planned.. It effectively empowers us to move away from being a passive marcher in an anonymous mass of demonstrators, by become an active part of the struggle at its roots.





As well as being useful in mass actions, affinity groups or clusters of affinity groups can be the model used for working out / thinking of their own inspired actions or other campaigning approaches .

Although there is a high degree of autonomy, AGs don't always operate entirely on their own - especially during large-scale actions involving multiple AGs. An efficient decision-making structure needs to surround the individual AGs. This usually involves some sort of delegates meeting or 'spokes council' to which each AG sends a representative and is a two way process through which individual AG have a direct say in decision-making without everybody attending the one meeting. It works best when the spokes-council only considers basic structural or over-arching logistics concerns of the actions and leaves the details of actions up to each group. Ideally, this allows for a high level of co-ordinated action amongst many autonomous groups. In practice this is often difficult and can easily become unwieldy - predominately because we are simply not used to, or experienced in very decentralised forms of decision-making, AG delegates find it difficult to truly represent their affinity group and fully translate information and decisions. There is also a tension between the spokes-council's decisions and the autonomy of each AG which, due to lack of trust or poor communication can easily become a problem.

However, by organising at the grass roots, many of us are maintaining the end and means of our struggle. If we want to live in a world without capitalists, bosses, stewards, feudal lords etc, then we must build from the root. S11 should not just be about one big action, but countering the WEF from as many angles as possible.

This all begs the question, "with whom do I form an affinity group?" The simple answer to this is the people that you know, and that feel the same way about the issue(s) in question. They could be people you see in a tutorial, work with, go out with, or live with. The point to stress however, is that you have something in common other than the issue that is bringing you all together, and that you trust them and they trust you.

An important aspect to being part of an affinity group is to get to know where each other is at regarding the campaign or issue. This can involve having a meal together, and you all discussing it after you have eaten, or doing some form of activist related training together, like attending a nonviolence, conflict resolution or facilitation workshop, developing de-arresting strategies if needed, working out how to deal with certain police tactics ie. snatch squads, police horses.

You should all have a shared idea of what you want individually & collectively from the action/campaign, how it will conceivably go, what support you will need from others, and what you can offer others. It helps if you have agreement on certain basic things: how active, how spiritual, how nonviolent, how touchy-feely, how spiky, how willing to risk arrest, when you'll bail-out, your overall political perspective etc. But then again, you may all just work together at a job, play music or hike together etc.

Within an affinity group, there are a whole range of different roles that it's members can perform. A lot of these roles will be determined by the aim or raison detre of the AG, but could include a **Media Spokesperson**, to either talk to / deal with news media , a Quick decision **facilitator, 1st Aid** to take care of people that are hurt, a **Spokesperson** to convey the affinity group's ideas and decisions to other AG's, a **Legal Observer,** and **Arrest support.**

As well as these roles within itself the AG can take on a specialised role in the way it interacts with other AGs, or operates within the breadth of the protest or campaign. There can be affinity groups specialising in copwatching, countering "protest highjackers", ' legal observation, catering, communication & cluster liaison, medical., clowning, or good old common garden variety blockading. With this role focus, each AG can do it's job and support the work of other affinity groups. In this way, many affinity groups form an interdependent network that achieves so much more than a large group of individual activists.

Within the context of a demonstration, as important as the aspect of the AG that is out on the street, is the support crew. They do all the mundane stuff, and regrettably don't get the recognition that they deserve. They can walk/feed pets, water plants, childcare, call employers and freaked out parents/children, pay rent etc. As a consequence, more people can participate (and risk more) because they have help with these things. The emotional support is not to be underestimated; apart from the offers of hugs, kisses, and phone calls, people feel safe enough to risk themselves when they know that they have emotional support. Support crew can also indirectly support direct action by supplying information to news media and interested community groups, raising funds and providing logistical support, like food, water and accommodation. The street aspect of an AG, and its support crew can (and should) swap round, so that there is a clear understanding within it as to the importance of all roles in the group's effectiveness.

The aim at the end of the day is to look after yourself and each other, have fun, and work towards a maximised degree of constructive social change.

A Checklist for the Consensus Process

These are just some to the many ways the conduct a meeting using the consensus process. Roles should be carried out by everyone as needed – not just specially designated.

Basic Procedure

At or before the Meeting (or at a previous meeting):

- Bring materials/supplies that will be needed
- Connect (game, song, ritual, etc.)
- Check-in/excitement-sharing
- Gather agenda items
- Determine presenter/initiator for each item
- Determine item type: announcement, report back, discussion, decision
- Agenda review: agree on agenda and time for each item
- Choose facilitator, minute taker, timekeeper, stacker vibes watcher
- Step through the agenda
- Set next meeting
- Evaluation (good, bad, better)
- Closing

The Flow of a Cooperative Decision-Making Process

- Issue raised – what is the problem?
- Clarify problem – put it in context
- Discuss, bring out a diversity of ideas, concerns, and perspectives – look at possible solutions and the problems with those solutions
- Encourage heartfelt dissent and challenge
- Note agreements and disagreements and the underlying reasons for them – discuss those reasons
- Synthesize proposed ideas/solutions or come up with totally new ideas in the supportive atmosphere of the meeting (find a "third way")
- Evaluate the different ideas until one idea seems right for the group
- Establish how the decision will be implimented
- Make sure that there are no loose ends
- Restate the decision to the minute taker (including implementation

Discussion/Problem Solving Tools

- Brainstorms
- Go round the circle ("Round Robin"
- Small group discussion (3-7 people)
- Advantage/disadvantage chart
- Visual aids
- Visible notes
- Goals/priorities setting notes
- Challenges/devil's advocate questions

Process/Empowerment Tools

- Paricipaton equalizers (pebbles, etc)
- Active listening in pairs
- Support groups/caucuses
- Feeling sharing
- Fishbowls
- Roleplays

Typical Tasks for a Facilitator

- Helps formulate the agenda
- Helps establish a hopeful, upbeat, and safe atmosphere
- Helps group work through decisions; asks for clarificaton; summarises and sorts discussion; lists threads of thought agreements and disagreements
- Helpes focus and order discussion topics
- Brings out all viewpoints
- Restates final decisions
- Encourages equal participation; draws out quiet people; asks windy speakers to be brief
- Encourages everyone to perfom leadership taskes
- Calls on speakers (role taken on by stacker)
- Stays neutral while facititating.

Typical Tasks of a Vibeswatcher

- Watches the process of the meeting
- Notices underlying feelings from tone of voice and body language, points out tension and weariness, recommends changes
- Stops bad process (domineering, guilt-tripping, interrupting, put-downs, bulldozing, defensiveness, space-outs etc)
- Helps to resolve conflicts
- Helps to work out negative emotions (fears, anger, anxiety, hopelessness)

Typical Tasks of a Stacker

- Records/updates speaking list, and informs facilitator and meeting of who is next, & length of speaking list.

Stress-Reduction Techniques

- Stretch breaks/cooperative games
- Singing
- Humor
- Affirmations
- Feeling Sharing
- Calm voice
- Eye contact
- Breathing
- Massage Circle

Conflict Resolution Tools

- Appreciations/affirmations
- Active listening
- I-messages
- Restating others viewpoint
- "Six Step" problem solving techique
- Support groups
- Venting emotions soemwhere else
- Gripe sessions
- Resentment sharing
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